

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 23, 2004. Claims 1-6 and 11 remain pending in this application. Claims 10, 16, 21, and 25 are now the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-6 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has so amended Claims 1-6 and 11 and believes them to be presently in condition for allowance.

In response to the Office Action's double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicant respectfully submits that since it is a provisional rejection, it is not ripe for response at this time.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully believes the amendments to Claims 1 and 11 adequately respond to the § 112, second paragraph rejection and request its withdrawal.

The Office Action also rejected Claims 1-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishihara (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,993; hereinafter "Ishihara"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 7, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Ishihara in view of Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,545; hereinafter "Liu"). Applicant respectfully believes the cancellation of Claims 7-10 and the amendments to Claims 1 and 11 adequately respond to the rejections, rendering them moot. Applicant requests withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees and fees for claims added upon amendment, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Applicant's undersigned agent may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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